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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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4405 S. Maylawn
Chicago, IL
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Dear []:

Thank you for your two notes. I regret I'm delay in answering them. I am trying to get my doctorate this February and am pressed for time. I am deluged in my correspondence to everybody. Nevertheless, here are a few notes concerning your last request - information on the religious life in contemporary Lithuania.

As I have told you earlier, several Lithuanian priests, including Bishop Vincentas Brizgys, met the American prelates that were participating in the Ecumenical Council in Vatican. Unexpectedly, I recently met Bishop Brizgys at a christening reception, where he provided several interesting observations from his conversations with the prelates of Lithuania. The prelates were in daily contact with the Catholic clergy from the West, especially with the Lithuanians since they resided in

The Lutheran Spiritual Academy
in Rome. Bishop Brixius suggests
that the information he conveys
us is not printable. However,
I leave it up to your judgment.
Here is a summary of the
Bishop's comments.

1) The Catholic Church is isolate
in various ways from youth, who
according to the prelates, are
extremely morally decadent. The
formal teaching of the Catholicism is
almost impossible. The Church is
adjusting to this in various ways.
First of all, apparently there are
secret circles of young people
who are dedicated to the teaching
of religious truths to this peers.
There are strict entrance requirements
and a religious initiation into the
circles. There is no indication how
widely spread such religious teaching
is. No doubt, the Roman
prelates have a good idea about
it, but are unwilling to reveal
the details of this operation for
obvious reasons. There is no public

indication. But the regime is aware of this. No doubt, the security organs must have some idea.

2) The religious youth has good their religious literature reserves. They have not disclosed prints.

It is possible that the information was collected from various sources. Bishop Brizzi reported of a case where the regime publicly tried and convicted one director of math library. No announcement of the trial appeared in the press. The woman that was convicted reportedly had said publicly at the end of the trial: "I have done my part now you do yours." This report appears to be authentic. She can be Bishop cited the name of the woman whose sister lives in Chicago.

3) How do the people from different views of fate? Right now they are more optimistic because they believe that the

regime inevitably has to evolve slowly toward a more human system; that despite all soviet pressure on religion, they have survived and, in fact, show signs of a mild revival; that the communist system itself is showing signs of disintegration. They believe that this will someday spell the doom to the soviet system; that the soviet experiment of developing communist morality has failed.

4) The prelates from Lithuania were attacked by a "journalist" who, according to the Bishop, was the political commissary of the delights. In fact, I read one of his dispatches appeared recently in THIS (in December). He is serving with the prelates in Rome suggesting the reasons for permission to the prelates to attend the Council. It is an interesting document on the regime and the Church has pros and

purposes. An important point of
the interview was that the
Roman Church, specially Pope
John XXIII, has made to him a move
of a spiritual and social
program, and evokes the
political crusade that Pope
Pius XII carried on. The above
are to which the Lithuanian
Catholic Church is just, and
the Church is willing to accept
this for the few privileges
that it has, is the peace
campaign support, support for
the peaceful-coexistence line
throughout the world. Also, in the
recent attempts to discredit the
"benign nationalists", in the
trials of the Nazi collaboration
in the extermination of Jews
and Russians, the clergy
also played a notable role in
the public condemnation of
atrocities.

So much for the information
on the religious life in Lithuania.
I expect to have a talk on

of these days with one of the priests who was recently in Rome. At the moment, however, I am extremely occupied. I might suggest that perhaps you could make some arrangements to draw a more systematic report on the meetings - ideas of the Prelates from Lithuania, when my return for the next session of the Ecumenical Council. Please use your judgment what can be used publicly, if you find anything valuable in the note.

I will give you an opinion on the Eltz - B election as soon as I can catch a breath from my work. Also I will make it a point to see Levinška at the beginning of February. By now he should be somewhat more affected by the freedom of this country and I think, the more easily he can discuss things.

Till next letter, until you []